A "young person conscious of a great capacity for life/* Milly is unfortunately incapacitated for an intense participation in life by her mortal illness. Her being a millionairess dazzles the eyes of the society to which she comes in search of felt life. She is admired and adored by Mrs. Lowder and Kate, who are charming and kind to her. Poor Mitly does not suspect that their charm and good manners are a mask, hiding effectively their diabolical nature and rapacious-ness. She is thrilled by England, and she feels "she had never, she might believe, been in such a state of vibration, her sensibility was almost too sharp for her comfort."[15] Perched on the high Alpine mountainside, and '"looking down on the kingdoms of the earth," Milly wonders whether she should not take the full Impact of life. She thinks, "it would not be for her a question of a flying leap and thereby of a quick escape. It would be a question of taking full in the face the whole assault of life, to the general muster of which indeed her face might have been directly presented as she sat there on her rock."[1]* Eager as she is for experience, Milly ignores the fact that her mortal illness has incapacitated her for trie thrills of a fell life. The "truth" about Milly is that she is mortally ill, but she has chosen the world because it is the world of Densher, whom she loves: Engaging herself in this world, she suffers its pains and cruelty with a courage and nobility which is deeply touching.

A greedy and cruel world cannot imagine Milly to be any different from itself. It is not mortality, but rather a hunger for immortality in her love for Densher, that engages Milly on behalf of those •'living under water," who are propelled by their subterranean drives of greed and selfishness. The morally diseased world is not the right p!ac$ for the innocent Milly, and this is symbolically conveyed by the diseased body of Milly. The dove must become pure wings to be its real self. But mortal as she is, the pull of the earth is irresistible. The body draws the spirit into the worldly world, and the

lonely
"survivor of a general wreck" hopes for life and happiness. Milly
seeks the advice of the celebrated physician. Sir Luke Strett, who
teHs her, "You've the right to be happy... you must accept any form
in which happiness may come."[1]* To Milly, who has a right to be
happy like any other young woman, happiness may not come in the
•shtfpe in which it usually does to the majority of young women.
fhfc doctor further tells her, "is n't to 'live* exactly what I'm tryirfg-to
persuade you to take the trouble to do?"[16] Sirl.uk* is tier* speaking